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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SY-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 NEA-10 EUR-25 DRC-01 /212 W
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R 031430Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3798
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, AR
SUBJ: THE AFTERMATH OF RUCCI'S MURDER

SUMMARY: CGT SUBSECGEN ROMERO PROPOSED TO SUCCEED RUCCI UNTIL 1974 CGT ORDINARY CONGRESS. ROMERO ACCEPTED NOMINATION RE-LUCTANTLY, REPORTEDLY AFTER ORDERED TO DO SO BY PERON. RUCCI'S DEATH UNLIKELY TO HAVE MAJOR EFFECT ON LABOR ORIENTATION AS RUCCI'S ROLE WAS MOUTH-PIECE FOR PERON. KILLING OF RUCCI THEREFORE CONSIDERED DIRECT AFFRONT TO PERON, AND PERON HAS SET INTO MOTION PLANS TO DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN OCT 1 MEETING THE CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROPOSED, SUBJECT TO CONFEDERATED CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CCC) RATIFICATION, THAT CGT SUBSECGEN ROMERO SUCCEED RUCCI AS SECRETARY GENERAL UNTIL JULY 1974 CGT ORDINARY CONGRESS. THE CCC, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF GENERAL SECRETARIES OF ALL CGT AFFILIATED UNIONS, REPORTEDLY WILL MEET OCT 16 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION.

2. A CGT OFFICIAL TOLD LABATT THAT ROMERO WAS ORDERED TO ASSUME THE POSITION BY PERON, DESPITE ROMERO'S STRONG PERSONAL WISHES
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TO HAVE ANOTHER LABOR LEADER FILL THE POSITION. ROMERO IS

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ACCEPTING THE POSITION WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE AS IT WILL REQUIRE
HIM TO FOREGO DIRECT DAY TO DAY CONTROL OF HIS OWN TEXTILE
UNION (ACT) IN ORDER TO DEDICATE HIMSELF TO CGT AFFAIRS.
ROMERO'S RELUCTANCE ALSO STEMS FROM HIS FEAR THAT THE POSITION
IS ONE WHICH CARRIES GREAT PERSONAL DANGER TO THE INCUMBENT.
AS ONE LABOR LEADER OBSERVED TO LABATT, "ROMERO IS NO COWARD,
BUT HE DOES ENJOY LIVING".

3. ROMERO IS CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH METAL WORKERS (UOM) AND PERONIST
62 ORGANIZATIONS LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL IN THE MODERATE WING
OF THE PERONIST LABOR MOVEMENT. A HIGHLY CAPABLE, INTERNATIONALLY
MINDED LABOR LEADER, ROMERO HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH US AND
DEMOCRATICALLY ORIENTED INTERNATIONAL LAOR ORGANIZATIONS;
THEREFORE, THE SOMEWHAT ANTI-AMERICAN CGT STATMENTS UNDER RUCCI
WILL MOST LIKELY BE SOMEWHAT MUTED UNDER ROMERO. NEVERTHELESS,
PERON SETS THE TONE OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT,
AND ROMERO AND THE OTHER LABOR LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO DANCE
TO HIS TUNE. AS PERON IS UNPREDICTABLE, SO WILL BE THE SHORT
TERM LABOR PTLICY.

4. THE DEATH OF RUCCI IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY PROFOUND LONG
TERM EFFECT ON THE ORIENTATION OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT
AS RUCCI'S ROLE WAS SOLELY THAT OF BEING A MOUTH-PIECE AND
PUPPET FOR PERON. HE HAD NO DIRECT SUPPORT IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT
NOR ANY REAL PERSONAL FOLLOWING OF HIS OWN. AN UNIMPORTANT
PROVINCIAL METAL WORKERS LEADER WHEN TAPPED FOR THE CGT GENERAL
SECRETARIALSHIP IN 1970, RUCCI WAS SELECTED BY UOM LEADER
MIGUEL AND PERON TO CARRY OUT PERON'S DIRECTUVES UNDER THE
MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH OFTEN RIDUCULED BY OTHER
LABOR AND NON LABOR LEADERS, HE NEVERTHELESS DID AN OUTSTANDING

JOB IN CARRYING OUT THE TASK ASSIGNED HIM BY PERON. HE UN-

HESITATINGLY CONTINUED HIS DUTIES EVEN THOUGH
UNDER PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED DEATH SENTENCES BY TERRORIST ERP AND
PERONIST ORGANIZATIONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR HIS ASSASSINATION.

5. HIS ASSASSINATION, THEREFORE, WAS A DIRECT AFFRONT TO PERON,
AND PERON HAS REACTED ACCORDINGLY. ON THE DAY OF RUCCI'S
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DEATH WHEN PERON MET WITH PRESIDENT LASTIRI HE REPORTEDLY STATED
THAT "OUR FORBEARANCE AND COMPLAISANCE WITH THE GUERRILLAS HAS
ENDED". IN AN OCT 1 MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS PERON
DEALT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITH THE SUBJECT OF HOW BEST TO
DEAL WITH THE EXTREMISTS AND TERRORIST, TODAY OCT 2, HE IS
MEETING WITH THE CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER
THINGS THE SAME TOPIC. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT FOR THE NEAR
FUTURE ONE OF THE MOST IMPTRTANT TASKS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT WILL

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BE THAT OF DEALING
WITH THE TERRORISTS, BOTH WITHING AND WITHOUT
HTE PERONIST MOVEMENT; HOWEVER, THE MEANS TO BE USED ARE NOT
YET CLEAR. THE DECISION WILL BE PERON'S, AND THE ORGANIZED
LABOR MOVEMENT AS DID RUCCI PERSONALLY, WILL UNQUESTIONINGLY
ACCEPT PERON'S DIRECTIVES.
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